

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/867,022

Examiner

Blaine Basom

Applicant(s)

OMORI ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicants' Amendment, received 8/30/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>8/20/2004</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' Attorney, Herbert F. Ruschmann, on January 21, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 17, the phrase:

“such that spacings of the operation instruction indicators on the display substantially equal to the predetermined input portions spacings of the operation input portions and such that a width of the operation input area substantially equals to a width range of the arrangement of the operation input portions”

has been amended to:

“such that spacings of the operation instruction indicators on the display substantially equal the predetermined input portions spacings of the operation input portions and such that the width of the operation instruction area substantially equals a width range of the arrangement of the operation input portions”.

Similarly, in claim 21, the phrase:

Art Unit: 2173

“such that spacings of the operation instruction indicators on the display substantially equal to the predetermined input portions spacings of the operation input portions and such that a width of the operation input area substantially equals to a width range of the arrangement of the operation input portions”

has been amended to:

“such that spacings of the operation instruction indicators on the display substantially equal the predetermined input portions spacings of the operation input portions and such that the width of the operation instruction area substantially equals a width range of the arrangement of the operation input portions”.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17-24 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 17 and 21, the prior art teaches driving a display, having one of a plurality of predetermined sizes, to display an “operation instruction area” like recited in these claims, whereby the operation instruction area comprises one or more operation instruction indicators, which are arranged in a one-to-one correspondence with the input portions of an input device operatively coupled to the display, and which are implemented to suggest to the user operations to execute on the one or more input portions of the input device. The prior art

Art Unit: 2173

additionally teaches resizing the operation instruction area, corresponding to one of the predetermined display sizes, such that the indicators of the operation instruction area are about the same size as the input portions of the input device, i.e. such that the spacings of the operation instruction indicators on the display substantially equal the spacings of the input portions and such that the width operation instruction area substantially equals the width of the arrangement of input portions. The prior art, however, does not explicitly teach displaying to the user a plurality of indicators on the display, which correspond respectively to the predetermined display sizes, and whereby as expressed in each of claims 17 and 21, the user chooses one of these indicators in order to resize the operation instruction area. Additionally, the prior art does not explicitly teach adjusting only a width of the operation instruction area, as is expressed by each of claims 17 and 21.

As claims 18-20 depend on claim 17, and include all of the limitations of claim 17, claims 18-20 are considered allowable for the reasons in which claim 17 is allowed. Similarly, as claims 22-24 depend on claim 21, and include all of the limitations of claim 21, claims 22-24 are considered allowable for the reasons by which claim 21 is allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2173

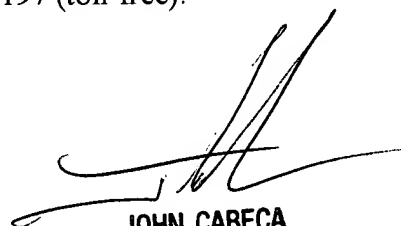
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (571) 272-4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

btb



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100